

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1.-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim [[1]]30, further comprising a bag retaining element that includes a bag-retaining bar for engaging and retaining said stack of bags against said at least one roller before and during dispensing.

11. (Original) The device according to claim 10, wherein said bag-retaining bar is coupled to an arm pivotally coupled to said plate.

12-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim [[1]]29, further comprising an elongate guide mounted adjacent said rollers to guide dispensed bags away from the rollers.

20.-26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 29, wherein the bag retaining element is biased toward a closed orientation with respect to the plate.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) A device for dispensing a bag from a stack of bags, the device comprising:

a plate mounted on a frame, said plate defining a planar bag-supporting surface and an opposite planar surface;

a rotatable shaft coupled to said frame;

at least one roller non-rotatably affixed to said shaft and arranged to engage a bag of the stack of bags nearest said planar bag-supporting surface; means for rotating said shaft whereby said nearest bag is shifted over said at least one roller;

a bag detector coupled to the means for rotating said shaft, such that when the bag detector detects the presence of a bag, the rotatable shaft stops rotating,

wherein the stack of bags is held against said planar bag-supporting surface, and when said rotatable shaft rotates, said nearest bag is thereby dispensed to said opposite planar surface side of said plate, said plate being disposed between said dispensed nearest bag and the stack of bags, and wherein said rotatable shaft is mounted on said frame, and the device further comprises a bag retaining element coupled to said plate for pressing the stack of bags against said at least one roller, said bag retaining element having a first end and a second end, said first end of said bag retaining element being pivotally connected to said plate.

30. (Previously Presented) A device for dispensing a bag from a stack of bags, the device comprising:

a plate vertically mounted on a frame, said plate defining a planar bag-supporting surface and an opposite planar surface;

a first rotatable shaft mounted on top of said frame;

a second rotatable shaft mounted parallel to said rotatable shaft on an extension of said frame, wherein said extension is attached to the frame and extends away from the plate;

at least one roller non-rotatably affixed to said first rotatable shaft and arranged to engage a bag of the stack of bags nearest said planar bag-supporting surface; means for rotating said first rotatable shaft whereby said nearest bag is shifted over said at least one roller;

at least one roller non-rotatably affixed to said second rotatable shaft;

wherein each roller on said first rotatable shaft is coupled to a roller on said second rotatable shaft, whereby rotation of said first rotatable shaft causes concomitant rotation of said second rotatable shaft, and said first rotatable shaft is disposed between said second rotatable shaft and a bag retaining element; and

a bag detector coupled to the means for rotating said first rotatable shaft, such that when the bag detector detects the presence of a bag, the first rotatable shaft stops rotating,

wherein the stack of bags is held against said planar bag-supporting surface, and when said first rotatable shaft rotates, said nearest bag is shifted over said at least one roller and descends down along said opposite planar surface side of said plate, said plate being disposed between said dispensed nearest bag and the stack of bags.

31. (New) The device according to claim 29, wherein the plate is vertically mounted to the frame.

32. (New) The device according to claim 30, further comprising an elongate guide mounted adjacent said rollers to guide dispensed bags away from the rollers.

33. (New) The device according to claim 10, wherein the bag retaining element is biased toward a closed orientation with respect to the plate.